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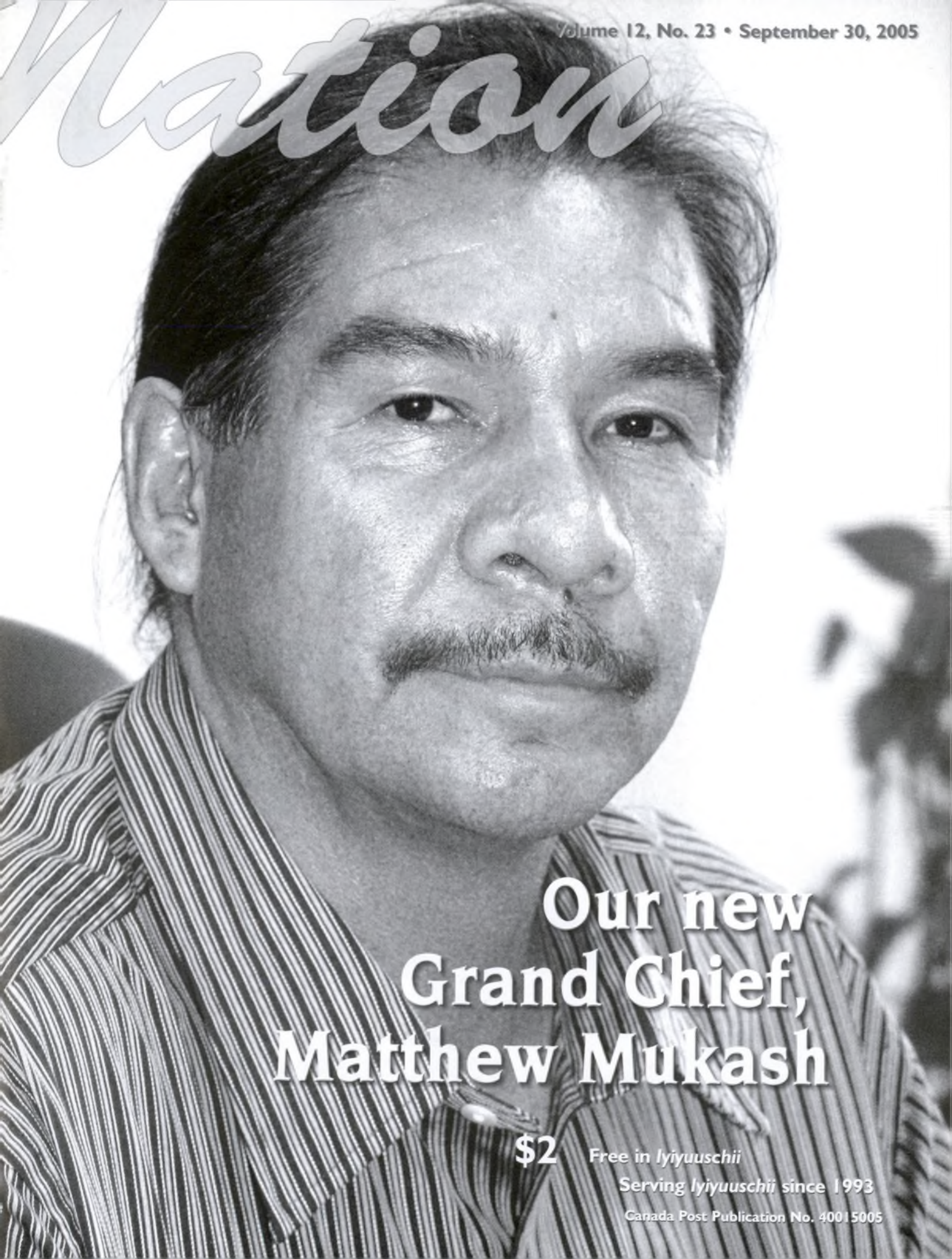

Our new Grand Chief, Matthew Mukash

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Congratulations!

**Best of success and
our profound wishes to
Grand Chief Matthew Mukash.**

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Cree Nation become a reality.
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A new era

By Ernest Webb

After a hard-won battle we now have Matthew Mukash as our new Grand Chief. Many things were said during the campaign. Many things were implied. Some were on the mark and some were way off. People were hurt. People were confused. The people finally made a choice. We now have to live with that choice for the next four years. We will see.

People always pin their greatest hopes on a new leader. He or she is like a blank canvas, waiting to be painted with our fervent imagination. People will expect great things. Inevitably, people will be disappointed. It is normal. No one can be all things to all people.

The important thing will be to keep working. Everyone will have their role to play. We have to keep working towards a healthy Cree Nation. It is our hope here at the Nation that a new Cree government, with full democratic legitimacy, will emerge. One that is farther along towards full sovereignty. That means that the coming negotiations with the federal government must be conducted in open and transparent fashion, with wide input from the people of Eeyou Istchee.

We are not asking for much. All we are asking is that every Cree has a full opportunity to participate in the running of the Nation.

It is not enough that the people are invited once a year to an annual general assembly. It is not good enough that the most important subjects at these assemblies are scheduled for the very end, when there's no time left and people need to catch a plane, leaving the real decisions to be made among the few and the powerful.

It is not good enough that when resolutions are passed at general assemblies, they are ignored if they don't jibe with the Grand Chief and his group of cronies. It is not enough that people are expected to make a snap decision because of some deadline that has been artificially imposed on them. Much has changed in the 30 years since modern politics came to Eeyou Istchee. It is time for our government systems to evolve as well.

Besides shaking Matthew's hand to congratulate him, I'm sure many people are telling him what they expect from him for the next four years. Well, let us get our two cents in. We're hoping for some reconciliation in the Cree Nation. We will need healing. Even this election as with the last election shows how divided our people are. It is as if there has been no attempt in the past few years to unite us again. Matthew Mukash must extend his hand to people who opposed him in an attempt to find middle ground.

On the other side, people who voted for another candidate cannot sit on their hands. Just because your guy didn't get in is no reason to shut yourself down. Everyone must do their part to create stronger Nation. We have to keep going. We have to keep going towards a Cree constitution and a Cree government that responds to the people.

We're not asking for much. Just a chance for the Crees. And a chance to make a difference. We will see.

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Photo: N. Diamond

Design: R. Lawson

rez notes

Mud cakes

After the election, calm settled over the Cree universe, and then reality set in. The headlines peeped in quietly and a thankful fax appeared on the front desks of band offices from the new head honcho. Apparently a discussion was held about the new leader on CBC North but it could only be heard up here by shortwave radio. No cameramen appeared from various television broadcasters and the Gazette limply bleated that an opposition leader had been elected to steer the Cree for the next four years. The under coverage was strange, unbefitting the information storm that had reached cataclysmic proportions on the day of the elections, when mud flew and the artful dodger carefully dodged one sling after another. Yep, after the mud cakes dry out, we're due for one heck of a clean up.

Aside from near rioting on the streets of one of the larger communities in the north and a few rowdy rednecks tossed out of a bar or two (still loudly and defiantly denying the vote count, a frothing-at-the-mouth type of drunk), Eeyou Istchee went back to work with the attitude of another day, another dollar. A sense of a new beginning was brought up here and there, but as reality dictates, we still have to bring home the bannock and beans to feed the family. Going back to the office, construction site, land, etc... had that familiar ring to it, "Get back to work!"

Now that the political stew needs some stirring up, as the meat had settled to the bottom and was close to burning, some spice has been added and we as clients of the Eeyou Bistro will taste it soon. How will it taste, one might ask? Will it taste the same, or will it have a smoked flavour? Will there be more meat, or will it be watered down after too much time in a boiling pot? Will it be northern-accented or steak house spice and wine to polish it off? Today, it's difficult to say, but let's just hope that the mud is left on the bottom of our shoes and not accidentally dropped into the 30 years of careful (or reckless abandon in some years) stewing, making the flavour of northern Eeyou much sought after by other cooks and chefs from North America.

Now that there is a new chef, the stew may be changed somewhat, or it may be doled out in dollops or eked out by the spoonful. It's surprising what one flavour can do, make it or break it. Words of advice to the chef, stir it and taste it once in a while, to see if it is burning at the bottom or if it is spiced just right, or requires some salt of the sea or perhaps an onion to make a tear or two, just before tossing into the bubbling sea of politics we like to call Cree togetherness.

I for one know that no matter what we do, we always get copied in one way or another by others across the country. The Eeyou Nation is looked at as a Nation that leads the way by example and conduct. Sure, there are other richer nations that have few resources, save for casinos and oil. But we still have the land to go back to in case of hard times, which is not the case for other nations. We are lucky that we have mud to sling around.

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Canada

A new leader for Eeyou Istchee

Mukash wins solid victory; promises democratic decision-making

By Steve Bonspiel Photos by Neil Diamond

The people have spoken.

After six years under the leadership of Ted Moses, the Grand Council of the Crees – and the people of Eeyou Istchee – will look to a new era of cooperation, new ideas and perhaps most importantly, change.

Whapmagoostui's Matthew Mukash and Mistissini's Ashley Iserhoff were elected to the post of Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief, respectively, in the highly charged September 15 run-off election.

"I'm looking forward to a new era in the Cree Nation," Mukash said shortly after the win. "I really want to thank everyone who supported me in Eeyou Istchee."

Mukash garnered 3,236 ballots for 55.9 per cent of the vote in the run-off election after he fell short of the required 50 per cent plus one vote in the first ballot Aug. 31. Eastmain's Moses captured 2,506 votes, or 43.3 per cent, of the 5,789 total ballots cast.

Mukash was running on a very different platform than the incumbent. Finding a way to save the Rupert River by utilizing the vast wind power in Eeyou Istchee and moving the Grand Council offices closer to home were two of the main planks of his winning platform.

"My major platform is the nation-building approach to economic and social development," Mukash told *the Nation* in a previous interview. "One of the most valuable industries in my mind is wind power, because in Hudson Bay we're sitting on the type of climate that the wind is the strongest."

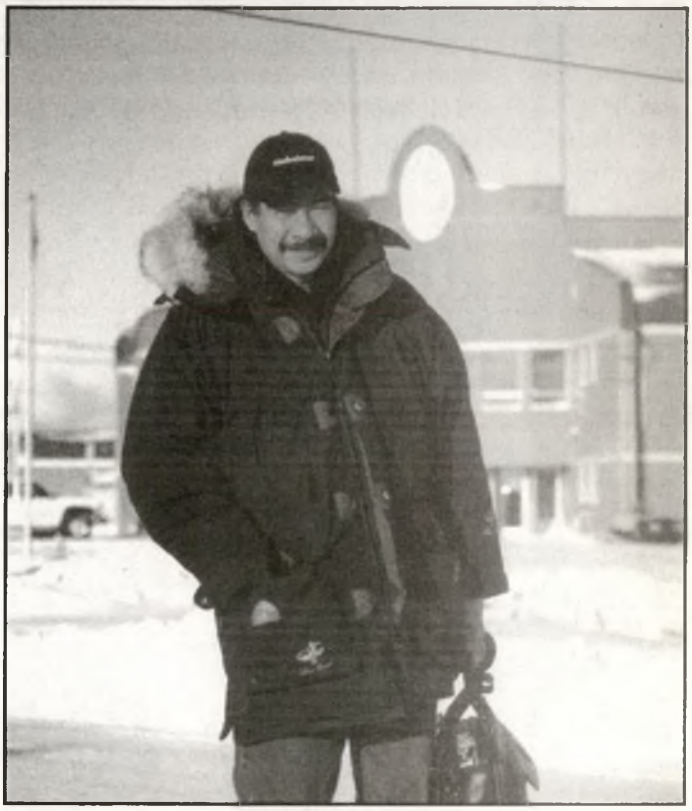
Mukash has left his job as CEO of Whapmagoostui's development corporation to assume the leadership position.

At a certain point the election deteriorated to the lowest common denominator. Accusations flew, names were called and one person even went on a local radio show to essentially say that Matthew Mukash should not be elected because of his religious beliefs – a tactic which seemed to work in that community.

Fear mongering was also a big part of the campaign. Moses went so far as to write about "what's at stake" on his website if he lost. Under that heading, he warned the people that if they didn't vote for him, the Cree Nation, as people know it, would cease to exist.

Moses' official website cautioned the people that they could lose the annual $70 million they are currently receiving from Quebec if they did not retain his leadership. He also warned that many things, including expanded health care services, Cree police officers and even expanded funding for social services for "issues such as suicide prevention," would be a thing of the past if he were defeated.

Unfortunately for Moses, the people didn't buy it.



The new Grand Chief

"I hope we can work together to move forward as a nation at this new stage," said Mukash, whom some people fear will rip up the Paix des Braves Agreement signed with Quebec in 2002 because he didn't support it.

"I'm not against the agreement or development, I was against the way it was done," he said. "The people needed more time to digest an agreement of that magnitude.

"One of the things I want to do as the leader of the Crees is to bring the decisions back to the people and give them enough time to make the proper decision."

Ted Moses was reached by phone but did not comment.

In the race for Deputy Chief, Ashley Iserhoff edged Losty Mamianskum by a 2,960 to 2,788 score.

Iserhoff was reached shortly after the election. "I'm happy, I'm just going to let it sink in right now," he said. "I'm tired. It's been a long road down the campaign trail but it was worth it.

"I'm looking forward to working with the people as Deputy Chief."

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FÉLICITATIONS, M. MUKASH.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR MUKASH.

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Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Charming Chocolate Cheesecake

1 package (5.25 oz)	sugar-free chocolate graham crackers, crushed	157g
1/3 cup	reduced-calorie margarine, melted	75ml
1/4 tsp	ground cinnamon	1ml
1 envelope (2.5 oz)	unflavoured gelatin	70g
1 cup	low-fat milk	250ml
2 1/2 (8 oz) packages (20 oz total)	low-fat cream cheese, softened	469g
2 tsp	vanilla extract	10ml
14 tbsp	granulated sugar substitute	210ml
1/3 cup	unsweetened cocoa	50ml
5 (0.6 oz each)	sugar-free chocolate wafer bars, coarsely chopped	17g
	cooking spray	

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium-sized bowl, combine crushed chocolate graham crackers, melted margarine, and ground cinnamon, stirring well. Let the mixture cool, then press it into the bottom and one inch up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan lightly coated with cooking spray. Bake the crust for 8 minutes, then remove the pan from the oven and let it cool on a wire rack.
2. Sprinkle gelatin over milk in a small saucepan, then let it stand for 1 minute. Cook over low heat, stirring for two minutes or until the gelatin completely dissolves. Let this mixture cool slightly.
3. Beat the cream cheese at medium speed of an electric mixer until creamy. Add the vanilla, and beat well. Add gelatin mixture, further beating until smooth. Add your sugar substitute and cocoa and beat until just blended. Pour this final mixture into your prepared crust, smoothing the top with a spoon. Cover and chill in the fridge for at least 3 hours or until set. Before serving, top with chopped wafers. Makes 12 servings.

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS PER SERVING:

Calories: 238
Fat: 16.5g
Saturated fat: 8.4g
Protein: 8.1g
Carbohydrates: 20.8g
Fibre: 1.5g
Cholesterol: 36mg
Sodium: 308mg.

Northern

What's next for Ted Moses?

With a wealth of experience, defeated Grand Chief could write his own ticket

By Steve Bonspiel

After nine years and two consecutive terms as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, Ted Moses is turning the page to another chapter in life and his career.

Under what title or working with whom? No one yet knows, but it's clear that Moses has an enviable CV to show any potential employer – or voter in a future election, for that matter.

Educated at Ryerson and McGill University, Moses went from Band Manager in Eastmain at a young age to Chief. He then played a key role in the 1973 legal proceedings concerning hydro development in James Bay, which eventually led to the decision of Justice Malouf in favour of the James Bay Crees.

He subsequently was the Chief Cree Negotiator of the JBNQA in 1974 and 1975. He also took part in the negotiations leading to the 1984 Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act, Canada's first local self-government legislation. He was the first Director-General of the Cree School Board.

Moses was also highly regarded on the international stage. He helped win consultative status for the Grand Council from the United Nations in 1987. In 1989, he was elected as the Rapporteur of the United Nations meeting on the Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations between Indigenous Peoples and States.

"I saw him as a true leader," said Grand Council Executive Director Bill Namagoose. "Fearless, with a strong belief in his abilities, he knew who he was, what he wanted, where he was and what he was doing there."

Namagoose said he learned a lot from Moses over the past six years. "I was always confident that the Cree Nation was in good hands," he said. "I never got any sense that the Crees were heading in the wrong direction. He's accomplished a lot in the last six years; it takes some leaders 30, 40 years to accomplish what he has with Quebec."

But Namagoose says the former Grand Chief's many critics didn't appreciate what was at stake in the negotiations over the Paix des Braves, which lead to the hydro development of the Rupert and Eastmain Rivers, as well as a $70 million a year in payments for a half century.

"Sometimes we're victims of our own success," Namagoose explained. "We've empowered the Cree Nation to a point where they feel they have a right to save yes or no to certain advances by governments. That's a very good sense of empowerment."

Namagoose credits Moses in the way he's dealt with Quebec and Ottawa. "With the Paix des Braves he removed some obstacles. He dealt with the extinguishment policy of Canada. Not only has he dealt with it in the international community, but he also managed to deal with it in a practical way in Quebec, whereby the Crees will now enjoy a share of their natural resources within their traditional territory."

As for Grand Council negotiator Abel Bosum, Ted Moses is no less than "one of the great Cree leaders of our time."

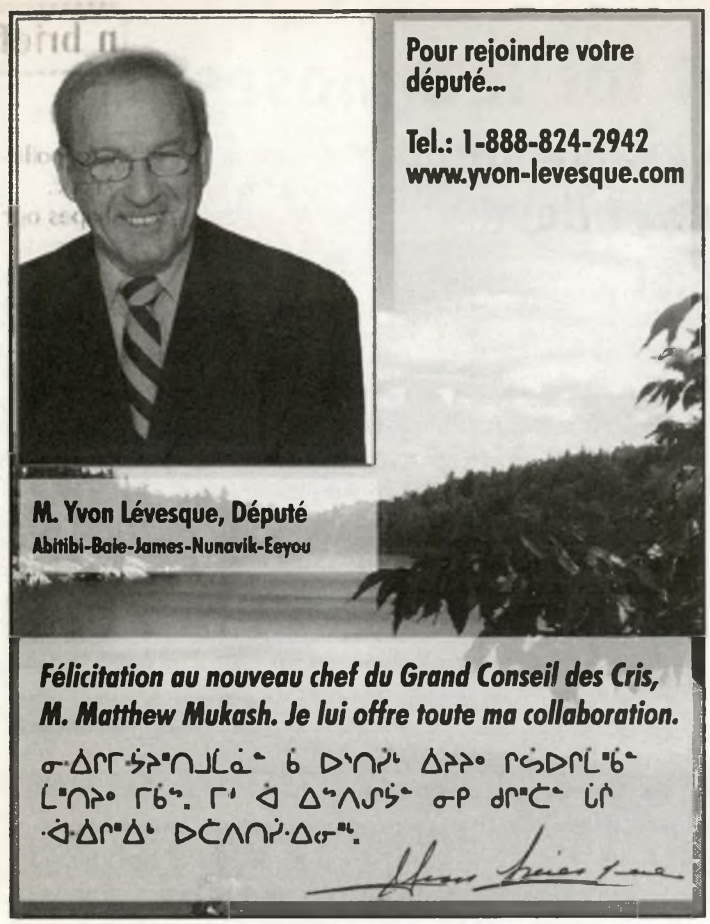
Bosum said Moses' approach is that of a diplomat. "He had a different style than previous leaders who were all good, too, like Billy [Diamond] and Matthew [Coon Come]," said Bosum. "There were times when we were at war with Quebec and Canada and we needed real strong fighters. With Ted, I think his experience as an ambassador working at an international level, he developed a different style.

"With Ted, he didn't only see the governments as institutions," Bosum continued. "He found a way to make connections with people like [former Quebec Premier] Bernard Landry and through that create the dialogue and the relationship that helped establish a table and a process where the two nations could sit down and hammer out what their interests were."

With his many years of familiarity and knowledge in the Cree political world, others wonder whether Moses might be ready to go national. Many people (on the Moses campaign website, at least) are now calling for Moses to run for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

In a interview before the election, Moses was not worried where he would end up if he lost. "With my experience, I'm not too worried if I don't win," he said. "I can go back to my trapline, or I could find another job with other organizations because of my experience in negotiations."

Moses was contacted by phone for this article but chose not to comment.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Congratulations!

To the new Grand Chief
Matthew Mukash
and the new Deputy Grand Chief
Ashley Iserhoff.

The Cree School Board
wishes you the best of luck
in your new functions.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Congratulations!

Hydro-Québec and Société d'énergie de la Baie James unite to congratulate Matthew Mukash following his election as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees. We wish him good luck in his mandate and assure him of our commitment to maintain productive relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

Hydro Québec

Van opens friendship centre early

The bad news is the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal underwent extensive damage due to a car crash during the early morning of Sept. 19. The good news? No one was hurt.

"A van came in our front door," recounted the Friendship Centre's Nathalie Lloyd. "He swerved to miss another car that ran a red light, and unfortunately came into our building."

The Friendship Centre is located on the corner of Ontario and St. Laurent, one of Montreal's busiest streets. It is open to these types of accidents because there are no barriers stopping vehicles from crashing into its exposed facade.

"The whole front doors are gone," she said. "The doors were pushed right up onto the metal screen we put up at night. A pole crashed downstairs and smashed a desk and some windows. The youth centre doors are also gone. The whole front entrance needs to be redone."

The driver wasn't hurt, and suffered "just a few scratches," according to Lloyd.

As for the damage, she didn't know how much it would cost, but was stressed about the Centre's powwow, scheduled for the end of the week.

The Centre was only closed for a day.

Lloyd said that a similar accident happened when they first moved in a few years ago, but not to the extent of this one.

"We're just thankful it didn't happen when we were open."

Ryerson U honours Aboriginal midwife

Carol Couchie became the first Aboriginal woman to become a registered midwife in Canada and for that achievement, was honoured by Ryerson University in Toronto with an Alumni Achievement Award on September 24.

Couchie was a graduate of the first class of Ryerson's School of Midwifery in 1998. Her work has improved the lives of countless Aboriginal women.

She is the first Aboriginal woman in Canada registered to practice in her field. She delivers effective and compassionate midwifery care and childbirth education to the large Aboriginal population of The Pas, Manitoba.

Couchie is also chair of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada's Women's Health Committee and a driving force behind the National Association of Aboriginal Midwives. She also helped to establish the Aboriginal Midwifery Education Program at the University College of the North.

G-G names first Northern Award winner

In one of her last gestures as outgoing Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson has announced the winner of the newly created Governor General's Northern Medal.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, an Inuit activist from Iqaluit, has been awarded the first Governor General's Northern Medal for bringing international attention to pollution and climate change in the Arctic.

"The north expresses and shapes our imagination as Canadians," the Governor General said in a press release. "This medal will honour those who are in and of the north and those who help our well-being as Canadians through their work in the north."

Watt-Cloutier brought attention to the problems of global warming and its impact on the Arctic as chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. During her early years with the conference, she led a coalition of northern Indigenous people who persuaded partners to sign a global agreement in 2001 to ban environmental pollutants that contaminate the Arctic food chain.

Watt-Cloutier "has been an eloquent spokesperson for the North and an advocate for Inuit rights, not only across Canada but also internationally," says the official citation. "Her passion and dedication have put a human face on the challenges that the Arctic and its people confront every day."

The Governor General's Northern Medal will be awarded annually to a citizen whose actions and achievements have contributed to the Canadian North.

An advisory committee consisting of seven representatives of Aboriginal and northern communities will recommend recipients.

The medallion was designed by Cathy Bursey-Sabourin. It shows a snowy owl, representing a watchful guardian spirit, the aurora borealis symbolizing the scope of the North and a small Canadian Arctic diamond signifying the North Star.

List of moose and goose breaks by community

Chisasibi: September 10-first week of October. (Some have started the weekend of the tenth)

Eastmain: September 16-October 28th Break lasts that long but employees can only take whatever time they have left for holidays, usually a week)

Mistissini: mid-September- mid-October not many employees break, but if they do they are allotted some time depending on how much they took during goose break

Nemaska: September 26-October 10 (employees are allotted one week, can take another 5 days but must take it out of their holidays)

OJ September: 26th-mid-October

Waskaganish: late September, all of October

Waswanipi: Sept 26-30 band office closed, break is basically Sept. 19th-October 10

Wemindji: September 10th – October 24

Whapmagoostui: September 10 – October 10

Moose Factory: August 10-17 is the official break w/ kids, but people go from second week of September until the end of October

Washaw Sibi: Whenever Waskaganish takes theirs; they will follow (see Waskaganish)

OJ Toxins debate

Abel Bosum: 'Poison' story is speculative, unprofessional and inflammatory

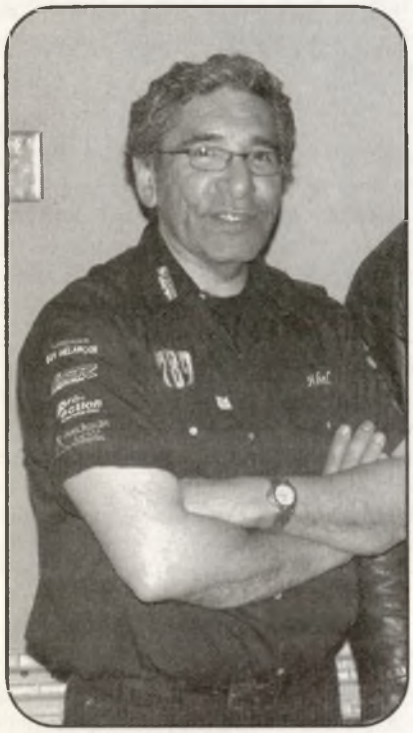

Photo by Will Nichols

Abel Bosum

I challenge *the Nation* to publish this letter in its entirety.

Following *the Nation*'s recent editorializing about the heavy metal contamination in the Oujé-Bougoumou traditional territory where the author suggests that there is a cover up of information and that there is a lack of seriousness by the Cree leadership in addressing this matter, I think it is time to speak out.

When the issue was first raised by the late Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith who believed that there were serious questions about the potential contamination of some of the lakes and rivers in the Oujé-Bougoumou territory, it was the local Council who responded and urged the Grand Council of the Crees to engage Christopher Covel to undertake a preliminary assessment of the situation. The Grand Council in turn responded swiftly and positively.

It was our initial intention to obtain a preliminary indication of the seriousness of the situation knowing that if there was serious follow-up work which was required we would need to involve professionals with expertise in the area of environmental ecotoxicology and epidemiology. We were aware at the outset of the professional limitations of Mr. Covel whose professional training is as a geologist. We were also initially skeptical of Mr. Covel's reliance on the medical advice he relied upon from Roger Masters, a retired professor of political science.

When Mr. Covel's report was completed we realized that there were two components—a preliminary assessment of the extent potential environmental contaminants in three selected sites which found elevated levels of heavy metals, and an assessment of the implications for the health of the Oujé-Bougoumou population.

At the same time, the Quebec Ministry of Environment began a series of annual sampling and analysis of selected bodies of water in the territory to determine the levels of heavy metal presence. These studies have also confirmed the general conclusions in the Covel report.

To satisfy ourselves as to the validity of the findings in the Covel report, we submitted Mr. Covel's report to an internationally recognized expert in ecotoxicology, Dr. Evert Nieboer of MacMaster University, for review. In Dr. Nieboer's report he confirmed the probable validity of the environmental conclusions of the Covel report. He was, however, very critical of the conclusions in the Covel report regarding the health of the Oujé-Bougoumou population which were based on questionable results of hair analysis. The sample population was limited to only 23 people, they were not randomly selected, and hair analysis is generally recognized to be only useful in detecting the presence of mercury.

Dr. Nieboer's report recommended that there immediately be undertaken a proper scientific health study of the Oujé-Bougoumou population to determine if the human population was at risk as a result of the presence of environmental contaminants.

Following negotiations with Quebec we were able to establish an approach for a proper health study which would be carried out on a joint Cree/Quebec basis. A health study was then designed by the two co-directors, Dr. Evert Nieboer representing the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, and Dr. Evert DeWailly, also a highly respected expert in the field, representing the Quebec National Institute of Public Health.

Photo by Neil Diamond

Dr. Evert Nieboer

The health study in Oujé-Bougoumou was carried out during the summer of 2002 and blood, urine and some hair samples were taken from over 200 community members. The results were compared with the community of Nemaska where the life-style and population is similar to Oujé-Bougoumou, unlike the Covel report which inappropriately compared results to a population of young Americans. Based on an analysis of the chemicals associated with mining activities (arsenic, copper, selenium and zinc), it was determined that the Oujé-Bougoumou people are not as risk of internal exposure and therefore no medical intervention was required.

The health study further concluded that it would be prudent to conduct a

continued on page 12

The Nation responds:

There are a number of points in Mr. Bosum's letter that, in our view, are wrong or disingenuous.

First of all, it was not the authors of the articles who suggested a cover-up. This question was raised by New Hampshire scientist Roger Masters in a press release.

Secondly, *the Nation* does not feel it has solicited advice or information from unqualified individuals. Since you have singled out two people in particular we thought we would review their experience and qualifications to clarify matters for you and our readers.

Chris Covel has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geology from the University of Massachusetts (1985) and a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies (Resource Management and Administration) from Antioch New England Graduate School (2002). Mr. Covel is currently an adjunct Professor and ongoing guest lecturer in the Environmental Studies Department at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire.

Photo by Neil Diamond

Chris Covel

Mr. Covel has over 20 years of experience cleaning up hazardous waste sites around the world. He has been a project manager in various Superfund sites in the US. He has also worked at cleaning up extremely contaminated hazardous waste sites throughout the Americas as far away as Bolivia.

Roger Masters was awarded his doctorate in political science by the University of Chicago following studies at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and at Harvard, where he graduated Summa cum Laude. He is now a Research Professor at Dartmouth College, where he is the Nelson A. Rockefeller Professor of Government, Emeritus. His qualifications also include:

- President, Foundation for Neuroscience and Society (1998- present)
- Fellow, Institute of Society, Ethics, and the Life Sciences [Hastings Center] (1974-78)
- Co-Chairman, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Seminar on Politics, Ethics, and Economics of Health Care (1975-79)
- Board member, Association for Politics and the Life Sciences (1983- present) Vice-Chair (1991-93)
- Research Associate, Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research (1992-98)

In addition, he has published or been published in the following books and periodicals:

- Co-Editor, with Michael T. McGuire, *The Neurotransmitter Revolution* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1994)
- General Editor, *Gruter Institute Reader: Biology, Law, and Human Behavior* (New York: McGraw Hill)
- In Books: Roger D. Masters, Brian Hone, Anil Doshi, "Environmental Pollution, Neurotoxicity, and Criminal Violence," in J. Rose, ed., *Aspects of Environmental Toxicity* (London: Gordon & Breach), pp. 13-45.
- Roger D. Masters, Issue Editor, "Human Nature, Biology, and Justice," *International Political Science Review* (Summer 1994).
- "Neuroscience, Prejudice, and Human Nature," *Psychological Inquiry*, Vol. 3 (1992), pp. 175-77.
- Masters, Roger D., and Kantrowitz, Arthur, "Scientific Adversary Procedures: the SDI Experiments at Dartmouth," in Michael Kraft and Norman Vig, eds., *Technology and Politics* (Durham: Duke University Press), pp. 278-305.

OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE HAS THE FINAL TRUTH IN THIS MATTER. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THERE ARE VERY TROUBLING SIGNS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF THE OUJE-BOUGOUMOU REGION.

Finally, on September 13 this year, Dr. Masters presented his study, "The Gap Between Neurotoxicology and Public Policy: How Politics and Faulty Social Science Obscure Behavioral Harm From Toxins: A Case Study," to the 22nd annual meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Society in North Carolina.

In total, he has published over 150 articles and books, most of which deal with biology, environmental science and

continued on page 13

Bosum letter continued from page 10

comprehensive environmental risk assessment covering the entire Oujé-Bougoumou traditional territory to determine the extent of the presence of heavy metals in the environment for purposes of initiating remediation measures, and also, for purposes of a longer term public health measure to continuously monitor the health of the environment and the health of the human population.

Again, following negotiations with Quebec, we have established a process to conduct a comprehensive environmental risk assessment based on a proposal which we developed together with professional experts in the field. Together with Dr. Peter Campbell of the University of Quebec and the National Institute of Scientific Research, an expert in the field of metal ecotoxicology, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and he holds a Canada Research Chair in Metal Ecotoxicology, we proposed an "Integrated Risk Assessment".

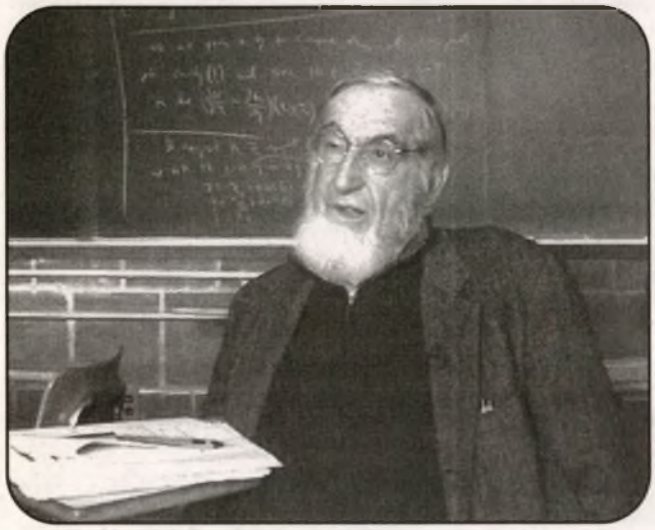

Photo by Neil Diamond

Dr. Roger Masters

The approach which we proposed involves the compilation of all existing data and information related to the environmental and ecological characteristics of the area which includes all information and past studies related to the mining activities in the region. This segment also will include a review of all studies related to the flora and fauna of the area in order to determine the characteristics of the food chain which has a bearing on human health. These data, together with the results of any ongoing or anticipated studies, will form a preliminary "ecological data base".

In order to ensure neutrality and objectivity the compilation of the existing information and data will be carried out by a third party. This work will be carried out with clear terms of reference and under the supervision of two co-directors, Dr. Peter Campbell representing Oujé-Bougoumou and Denis Laliberte representing the Quebec Ministry of Environment.

Simultaneous with the compilation of existing ecological data, a "traditional land use study" has been conducted to detail the way in which the Oujé-Bougoumou hunters use the land with reference to specific areas. Also, local hunters have had an opportunity to identify specific sites within their hunting territories which are of concern from an environmental perspective. This study has been conducted under the direction of Dr. Len Tsuji of the University of Waterloo who has had extensive experience in conducting such studies and related studies along the west coast of James Bay.

This segment of the overall approach will provide an opportunity to introduce significant and valuable data deriving from traditional knowledge.

All these streams of information, together with the findings of the health study, will then be analyzed and interpreted in the form of a "Preliminary Quantitative Integrated Risk Assessment". This assessment will indicate where the critical stressors are in the environment, the key receptors in the environment, the gaps in existing information, and priorities for action. The Integrated Risk Assessment will also make recommendations for remediation, monitoring and any further studies which may be needed.

Our approach to this situation has always been guided by a concern for the well-being of the Oujé-Bougoumou population, a determination to ensure that the truth be the goal and that we obtain the best advice possible. This is what we have done.

It has been truly puzzling for us to comprehend *the Nation*'s persistent failure to understand what has been going on in this file. Rather than asking for the facts and trying to approach this matter in a professional manner you have repeated unsubstantiated claims, you have made wildly inappropriate suggestions, and you have relied on the interpretations of individuals who do not have the professional qualifications to give meaningful advice. In the course of reporting on this story in the way you have you have raised the anxieties of members of the community and added confusion rather than clarity to the issue. You have decided at the beginning what the reality is and you have tried to interpret events to fit what you believe that reality is. This is not journalism—it is propaganda.

You have confused small water studies by the Quebec Ministry of Environment with our comprehensive environmental risk assessment and concluded that information was being withheld. All you needed to do is ask the question and you would have received the right information.

Where we have sought the advice of professional and internationally recognized ecotoxicologists you have relied on a geologist with a Master's degree. I suppose *the Nation* knows best.

Where we have sought the advice of physicians and researchers whose professional careers focus on such issues you have relied on a retired political scientist for medical advice. I suppose *the Nation* knows best.

Where we have tried to be rigorous, scientific and yet compassionate toward our people, you have been speculative, unprofessional and inflammatory. I suppose *the Nation* knows best.

Abel Bosum
Former Chief

the Nation reply continued from page 11

health. Given his interest, expertise and contacts within these fields, belittling him as a retired political science professor is grossly misleading.

Next, Mr. Bosum suggests the Quebec Environment Ministry is a neutral third party capable of conducting an independent assessment of toxic mining contamination.

In this case, however, the province has clearly failed to enforce environmental standards for five decades. Indeed, the Quebec government has a scant record of environment clean up. Moreover, the Fraser Institute (which cannot be said to be a haven of left-wing ecologists) has judged Quebec to be the friendliest jurisdiction to the mining industry in all of North America, in large part because environmental standards are minimal or not enforced.

As for Mr. Bosum's reliance on the results of the Neiboer-Dewailly study, these were fully reported in *the Nation*. We also reported Nieboer's written and verbal criticisms of the findings and methodology of Covel and Masters. It is true that many of these issues are subject to heated scientific debate.

Indeed, the Neiboer-Dewailly study has also been found wanting by other physicians and researchers whose professional careers and livelihood depend on the quality of their advice. Doctors Data Inc. of St. Charles, Illinois, is well respected by Le Centre de Toxicologie du Quebec among others. DDI is an independent reference laboratory providing data on levels of toxic and essential elements in hair, and data on toxic levels of elements, amino acids and metabolites in blood and urine. They perform tests for over 40 countries around the world.

Roger Masters submitted the Nieboer-Dewailly study to Doctors Data Inc. for review. The DDI Lab Director is James Hick, a MD, PhD, and FCAP. He, in turn, disputed the methodology used by Nieboer and Dewailly.

Obviously, no one has the final truth in this matter. What is clear is that there are very troubling signs regarding the environmental safety of the Ouje-Bougoumou region. Given the results of the study we reported on, there can be no question that the mining industry has negligently put the Crees of Ouje-Bougoumou at risk.

Journalism is the reporting of available facts. If Mr. Bosum or the Grand Council has more information regarding this issue, then it is our view that he and they have a profound obligation to share that with the people directly affected by it. We will leave it to our readers to judge who is engaging in propaganda.

Lastly, we have never said or implied *the Nation* knows best. However, *the Nation* has and will continue to print what facts it knows to the best of our ability. While some of those facts may seem inflammatory or speculative to Mr. Bosum, they are gathered in a professional manner. Anything else would be a disservice to our readers.

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Makivik Corporation

The Makivik Corporation offers its sincere congratulations to the Cree Nation on the election of the new Grand Chief **Matthew Mukash** and Deputy Grand Chief **Ashley Iserhoff**.

We look forward to continuing to work together and sharing the love of the land and the traditions. Many successes in the next four years!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff.

We wish you the best luck in accomplishing your goals during your term as leaders of the people of Eeyou Istchee. We support you in your pursuit in further strengthening the Cree Nation.

From Chief Edward Gilpin, the Council and all the members of the Cree Nation of Eastmain.

They're out there

They seem to walk aimlessly around the village of Chisasibi every day and night. On weekends, these beings take over the village. They can barely stand, let alone walk; yet they make their way to God knows where. They usually hang out in packs. With lost balance, blurred-vision, and the reduced ability to speak clearly, they are undoubtedly looking for more booze, drugs or a party.

Their numbers are staggering, and they create fear for people who are trying to spend a well-deserved weekend after a long week's work. These people who seem to enjoy being seen in a drunken state and seem to take pleasure in scaring the elderly and young children do not seem to respect the townspeople. For instance, they find their way to the commercial centre, bother people there, vomit on the public floor, and spit on some poor soul as he or she comes in or goes out of the building. They do the same at the General Store, at the arena, but I have yet to see them at the hospital. Thank God they stay away from the hospital. In addition, they fight on the streets, pass out on them, and they even interrupt a walking-out ceremony on a quiet summer weekend morning. All of the acts mentioned above are done under the watchful eyes of young children who are simply playing outside innocently.

What do you suppose these children think when they see drunks behaving strangely around them? Do they run away screaming fearing for their safety, or are they accustomed to seeing drunks walking around town with beer cans in their hands? The answer to this question is both. Some kids get scared while others simply ignore the drunks.

This is what I want to discuss: children, as we all know, can easily be influenced. By being constantly exposed to drunks and their acts, the children begin to see these drunken behaviours as normal, as something that plays a part in their lives. The images of drunken adults and even young teenagers become imprinted in their innocent young minds. Next thing we know these children grow up and do exactly the things they saw. They end up getting alcohol and drugs, and start doing the same exact acts they witnessed as children. Why? Because they have learned that alcohol and drugs, and the behaviours that are created by these products, are valued around them. These children soon see that parties and walking around town under the influence of drugs and alcohol are simply ways of life here in Chisasibi, the normal and cool thing to do. But we know better don't we? If we do not, we should.

Children should not be exposed to sights such as these. They deserve better. They deserve to have fun and be happy, to explore and grow in an environment free from drunks who use foul language in public, who beat up each other for some unknown reason, and countless other unacceptable acts done publicly. Let us rear our children in a safe environment free from unwanted behaviours that are created by the consumption of drugs and alcohol. Wandering drunks should remain indoors, away from those people who simply want to have a nice day or weekend.

Let us think about our children. Let us protect them from unwanted stimuli, from things that can harm their future. Those of you who like to drink, please drink and remain indoors, for our children - our future leaders - are watching.

A concerned Chisasibi resident

History lost for video games

So the Rupert River will follow the same path as many great rivers have gone before.

Land clearings, river diversions, cooperation with tallymen, assessments, relocations of human and wildlife, and the list goes on. Surveys carried out in 2000 and 2002 could no longer be valid because of the strange environmental impacts caused by man and nature in 2005.

I was at the LG-1 reservoir the other day. At this reservoir, Hydro-Quebec showed tourists the great project of the century. Yet, on the other hand, they also showed the production of a sod dwelling that is centuries old and used by the Cree of long ago. The presence of that sod hut left a larger impact on tourists than the dam. Why? Because it is historical and can never be replaced.

Also that same day there were people from Moose Factory. The grandmother of the group told a small boy, "This is where the power comes from so you can play your games on television." The information didn't bother the boy, as does many individuals in the Cree Nation.

I blame the many Cree leaders who should know better. Those leaders who never made a move to save a river – one beautiful river. This river can never be replaced once it is diverted.

Margaret Cromarty, a Cree author, artist, tour operator, mother and grand-mother trying to save the Rupert River.

JBNQA serves Cree interests

I wanted to comment on your editorial, "Elections are opportunity for nation building," to provide a different understanding of what the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) represents to the Crees. My father, Joseph Petagumskum, who passed away this spring, was the Chief of Whapmagoostui when that legal instrument was negotiated. Eventually, he signed that important accord on behalf of our community.

My father, in his own way, let me know that the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was a legal instrument the Crees are using to develop a relationship with the governments of Canada and Quebec. This relationship has been in place for over 30 years now, and over that time the Crees have used the JBNQA as a means of ongoing nation building. My father also explained to me that the JBNQA helped our people reverse the historical neglect of the Crees' needs by the Canadian and Quebec governments. Cree control of education, health, human resources, and other areas of importance are directly tied to the JBNQA.

CONGRATULATIONS!

GRAND CHIEF
MATTHEW MUKASH
&
DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF
ASHLEY ISERHOFF

May the Creator guide and bless you both with knowledge, wisdom and understanding of our Elders -- as leaders of our great nation -- as we fearlessly paddle together as one through life's still and perilous waters with the resolve to reach our intended destinations.

Chief & Council and
the Community of
the Cree Nation of Chisasibi

FÉLICITATIONS!

Je tiens à offrir toutes mes félicitations à Messieurs Matthew Mukash et Ashley Iserhoff pour leur récente élection aux postes de Grand chef et vice-Grand chef du Grand Conseil des Cris.

Soyez assurés de mon entière collaboration et de mon engagement à poursuivre le développement harmonieux du Nord-du-Québec.

Je tiens aussi à souligner la contribution exceptionnelle du Dr. Ted Moses à l'amélioration des relations entre les différents intervenants oeuvrant au développement de la région du Nord-du-Québec. Je lui souhaite la meilleure des chances dans ses projets d'avenir.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Matthew Mukash and Ashley Iserhoff for their recent election to the posts of Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees.

Rest assured of my complete collaboration and commitment to pursuing the harmonious development of Northern Quebec.

I would also like to highlight the exceptional contribution of Dr. Ted Moses towards the improvement of relations between the different entities working for development in the Northern Quebec region. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

MICHEL LÉTOURNEAU
Député d'Ungava

Porte parole de l'opposition officielle en matière d'affaires autochtones et de développement du Nord québécois

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The JBNQA is not "one of the biggest sellouts," as you put it. [***Ed. note:*** *the editorial actually argues against this point of view. The Nation has never taken this position.*] It is not a road map leading to the alienation of Cree land and rights, as some would have us believe. The JBNQA has become the shield with which the Crees have successfully protected the Cree culture and various types of Cree rights from external governments and big business. The JBNQA has also helped promote and protect the general welfare of the Crees. Before the JBNQA the Crees had nothing to use legally to promote and protect their traditional way of life. To this day, even though Aboriginal rights are protected under Section 35 of the Constitution of Canada, many First Nations remain defenseless without a legal instrument to use to advance their rights and interests.

Over the last 30 years the Cree Nation leadership has been taking practical, incremental measures to ensure its realization. The strange thing is that many Crees do even see that this has been taking place all along and within the context of the JBNQA.

It is well-advised political campaigns and strategies, combative negotiations, and carefully planned court battles, using legal instruments such as the JBNQA, which have earned the Cree Nation respect nationally and internationally. Ill-advised agendas can only serve to undermine the hard-earned credibility and respect that is collectively enjoyed by the Cree Nation.

Can we realistically expect any worthwhile agreements to be acquired when some advise us to "take a minimum of one year to consider any agreement affecting the Crees in the long term"? It is a no-brainer that there are civil servants in the governments of Canada and Quebec who feel that it is their job to protect the public purse and prevent such agreements with First Nations from being concluded.

Our national leadership has done very well in supporting the whole nation. I trust my father's advice still today and I resent those who have yet to prove themselves denigrating his judgment.

Weemish Petagumskum
Whapmagoostui

::EMAIL FEEDBACK::

from the Nation website

Poison kudos and pens

This is a response to your article titled "Poison...HISTORY" concerning the Ouje-Bougoumou contamination. In the story it begins that it started five years ago when people asked game wardens if there was anything wrong with the fish, and were told nothing. Luckily to say, someone listened.

However, some people may ask how the American geologist, Christopher Covel, first arrived in Ouje-Bougoumou and who was that person who asked him if the mines could kill the fish. Well, I'm confident and delighted to say that person was Mr. David Bosum Sr. of Ouje-Bougoumou; he was the first to finally take the stand.

David has a business called Nuuhchimi Wiinuu Cree Cultural Tours. It invites tourists all around the world to have a taste of the Cree Culture in the northern atmosphere. However, an American geologist named Christopher Covel and a couple of other Americans contacted David to book for one week. When they arrived they were taken out in the bush to experience the Cree way of Life. It was at the end of their tour when they were taken to a campground near Chibougamau Lake. It was then David asked Chris if the mining could make the fish sick. And so, the story begins...

I believe a lot of thank-yous are owed to Mr. David Bosum Sr. from the people of Ouje-Bougoumou for his bravery.

Naomi Bosum

I first want to thank *the Nation* to be interested and to continue to publish articles on environmental issues and, in particular, on the problem of contamination in Ouje area.

Yet, I want to mention an error in the article. Dr. Eric Dewailly is working for the Institut national de santé publique (INSPQ) and Université Laval (Québec) and not at all for the Quebec Environment Ministry.

Bonnier Viger

Ed. note: *You're right, we slipped.* The Nation *regrets the error.*

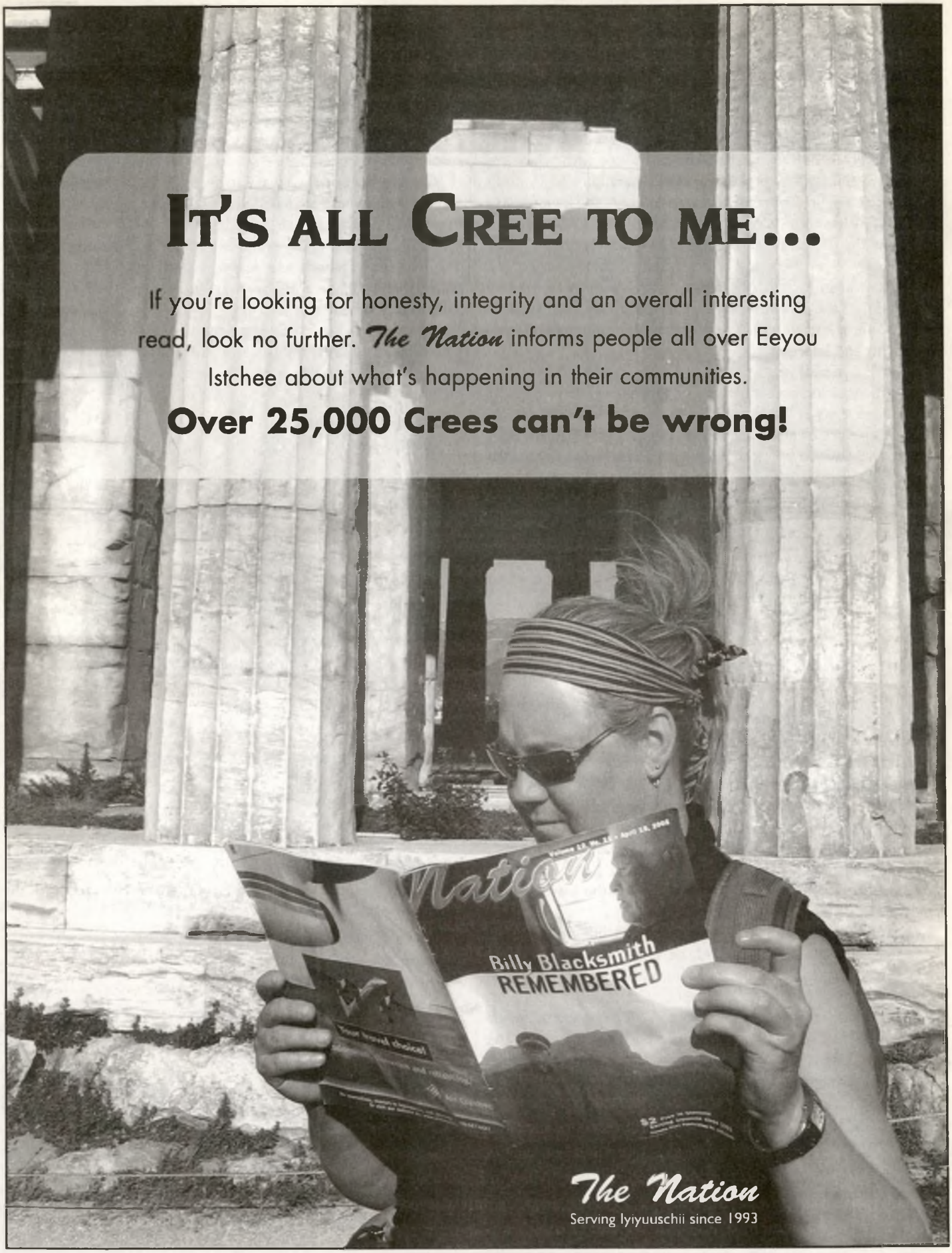
The information you obtained for your article was available last year. The impression in the story is that you had to dig it up because somebody was hiding it.

The timing and use of this dated information was to shock the community of OJ and influence their vote.

Will, your standards are getting a bit low.

Bill Namagoose
Executive Director, Grand Council of the Cree

Ed. Note: *The Grand Council of the Cree may have been aware for a year that the waters around Ouje-Bougoumou have been poisoned. But that doesn't explain why the GCC didn't denounce the situation or discuss it with the people of OJ (much less* the Nation*), nor why the Quebec government wouldn't do the same.* The Nation *will always publish information of public interest, dated or not.*


IT'S ALL CREE TO ME...
If you're looking for honesty, integrity and an overall interesting read, look no further. The Nation informs people all over Eeyou Istchee about what's happening in their communities.
Over 25,000 Crees can't be wrong!
Billy Blacksmith
REMEMBERED
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Father-son reunion a tearjerker

I think it would make people cry if they saw it on APTN about Daniel and Cory meeting together after 29 long years. I felt my tears when I heard their story. Daniel told the story to my dad and my dad told me. I can't wait to meet my uncle too, I play hockey also and most of his cousins and nephews plays.

Byron Sam

The first time I heard that he had finally met his dad I was crying because I didn't realize he would accept his dad. I'm happy for both of them that they finally met after 29 years. We can't wait to meet him.

Greta

More legends, please

I want to read more of the past or the legends of the Cree people. Our Elders are getting old and some have passed on already. We should take this chance to still hear the stories from our elders while we still can. They are the key to the way it used to be.

John

Hydro-Quebec doesn't get it

So what else is new? Hydro-Quebec never has understood, and as long as they keep trying to write the Cree up as some kind of sociological exercise they never will. Maybe if they put some of the same passion they put into their fight against the loss of French language and culture they might. They should stop focusing on our differences and enjoy all the wonderful things that we all share as human beings.

Mark Eitzen

I read your commentary on the EIA with great interest. As a fellow academic I agree very much with Harvey Feit's assessment and was pleased to see your coverage in the Nation. But there is one key issue that is not highlighted in Feit's assessment that I think is of great importance – and I have raised this issue with CEAA and HQ as well as the GCC. Currently, there is no adequate gender impact assessment in the EIA, except in terms of health. This is a grievous oversight and I think Cree women and girls need to have an economic and cultural assessment in addition to simply a review of potential health impacts.

I am an expert on social impact assessments and spent 18 months in James Bay on my doctoral thesis in the mid-1990s. I hope you can also highlight the need for a gender impact assessment in a future issue of *the Nation*. In other parts of the world, indigenous women are demanding this (e.g., Voisey Bay) and I think Cree women and girls deserve equal consideration.

Dr Gail Whiteman
Assistant Professor, Department of Business-Society Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

Send Christmas dinner, please

I came to Montreal two years ago to live here. I have a question that needs to be answered.

I think all the native people that live here should have funding from our bands to have a feast at least for Christmas holidays.

Not only for these people, but for the natives who come from the north to have some resources from our leaders.

The Makivik Corporation gives some traditional food that is flown from the north for the Inuit in Montreal.

I am Cree, and if I don't eat traditional food for some time I crave it. We people should not be forgotten, because we don't live on our reserves.

We're still native people, but prefer to live somewhere we want to.

So tell our leaders there are some of us who still exist.

Annie Sheshamush

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First Nations Bank of Canada wishes to congratulate the new team of **Grand Chief Matthew Mukash** and **Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff** on winning their election.

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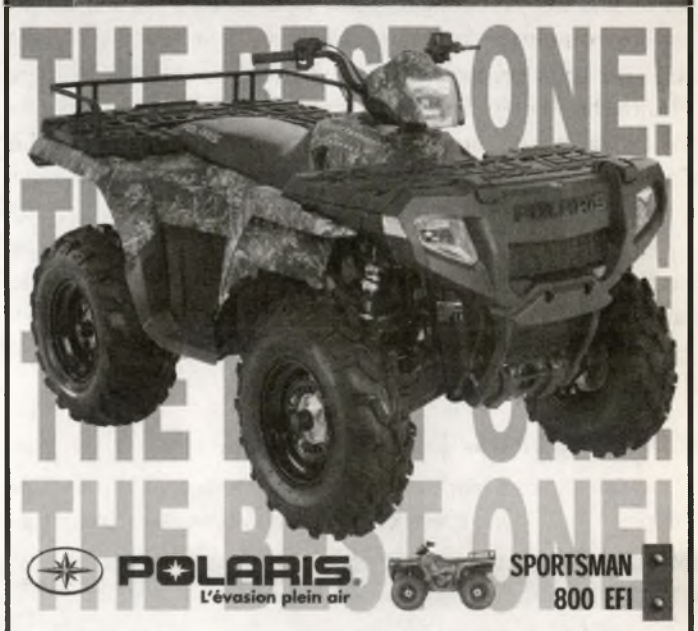

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Congratulations!

Matthew Mukash, on winning the election for Grand Chief of the Cree of James Bay, Quebec.

We wish you the best on your journey as leader of Eeyou Istchee and may the next four years bring prosperity to all of us, as you did for Whapmagoostui Eeyou Enterprise Development Corporation, the Whapmag-Cree Construction Inc, the 6016961 CANADA Inc., the Amos Hotel Project Inc. and for the people of Whapmagoostui.

Firearms Safety is always first

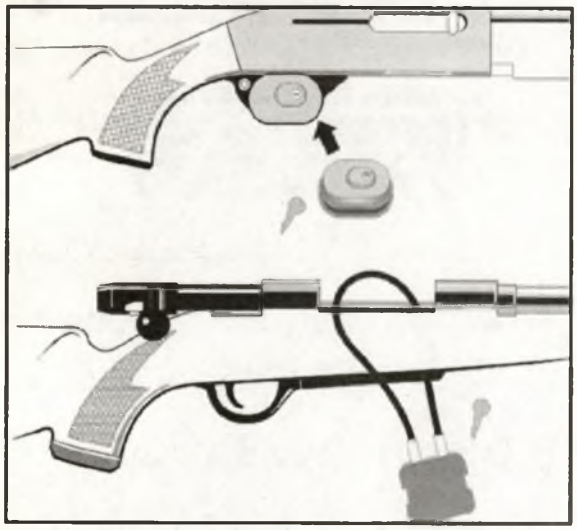
by Will Nicholls

Firearms play an important part in the lives of many Cree. If you have a gun, then it is up to you to make sure that it does not fall into the wrong hands or cause accidents. Given that moose and goose breaks are happening, *the Nation* along with the Canada Firearms Centre is giving you the heads up on the right method to store and transport your guns.

First of all we should know the laws and what they say about storing your guns and transportation rules for all firearms. The rules for hunting rifles and shotguns are simple.

"It's a bird, it's a plane no it's a a bird, a goose!"

Trigger Lock



Cable Lock

Hunting in generations

One very important requirement is to keep all firearms unloaded for storage. In most cases, non-restricted firearms need to be stored in a securely locked container or room that is hard to break into. Nemaska has provided firearms lockers for each household. Alternatively, they need to have a secure locking device on them, such as a cable lock or trigger lock. If not, the bolt or bolt carrier needs to be removed so the firearms cannot be fired. Ammunition must be kept separate unless it is locked up. (It can be stored in the same locked container or room as the firearm.) A tool box with a heavy lock is a cheap method of doing this.

If you're in the bush hunting, then the law is a little different. The law makes some exceptions for non-restricted firearms being stored in a remote wilderness area. These firearms need to be unloaded, but they do not need to be locked up or made incapable of firing and the ammunition can be kept readily accessible. So you need not worry about late night prowlers looking for some food.

Speaking of which, in other areas where a firearm can lawfully be discharged, a firearm can temporarily be kept unlocked and able to be fired if it is needed to control animal predators. This could apply to people who are slashers in the bush or those types of activities. However, the ammunition must be kept separate or locked up.

I think we all know the most important thing to do when transporting (by car, snowmobile or boat) is to unload the firearm. There is one exception to this rule that will not really apply to Crees at the moment. It is if you have a musket or a muzzleloader and you are taking it from one area where you are

continued on page 23

Congratulations!

To our new Grand Chief Matthew Mukash.
May the spirit of our ancestors guide your path in the next four years.

From the President, Staff & Employees of
Cree Construction & Development Company

Congratulations!

To Ashley Iserhoff on your successful candidacy for the position as Deputy Grand Chief.
May your accomplishments be great ones.

From the President, Staff & Employees of
Cree Construction & Development Company

Congratulations
to our new **Grand Chief** and new **Deputy Grand Chief.**

The Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui would like to congratulate the newly elected leaders of our Nation, **Grand Chief** ***Matthew Mukash*** and **Deputy Grand Chief** ***Ashley Iserhoff.***

In these times of great changes, may your vision and your commitment to the Cree people lead us to become a stronger Nation, to leave our children a great world to live in.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff

From the Chief, Council and all members of the Cree nation of Whapmagoostui.

continued from page 21

hunting to another area where you are hunting. It can be kept loaded, but the firing cap or flint has to be removed. Maybe it's time to see if great Grandpa can remember where they hid the old-style guns.

If firearms are in an unattended vehicle, they need to be locked in the trunk or in a similar lockable compartment (the box on the back of pick-up trucks). If the vehicle does not have a trunk or compartment that can be locked, the firearms need to be put out of sight inside the locked vehicle. If this is not possible, non-restricted firearms can be left unattended only if they are being transported in a remote wilderness area. In this case, the firearms need to be put out of sight. They also need to have a secure locking device on them unless they are needed for wild animals.

If you follow the above guidelines, you should have a safe and happy Goose or Moose Break.

Following those rules all the time will make our communities safer. Don't forget to check out any band by-laws that may also apply.

If you have any questions, call the Canada Firearms Centre toll-free at 1 800 731-4000 or contact your local CTA office (though they might be out hunting). Good luck to all hunters.

Butterfly Song

by Terri Janke

published by Penguin books of Australia

This is a rare offering. It is a glimpse into a different life and time. The book depicts the journey of one family through three generations of life in Australian history.

It begins on a small island off the northern coast of Australia with a young girl of mixed Aboriginal and Asian descent falling in love with a young man who is a singer in a local band. The time period is pre-WW II and his occupation is unacceptable to the girl's family. So he lays up his guitar to start pearl diving, as this is possibly the only occupation, at the time, for black fellas, a term for Aboriginals in Australia.

In the 1940s, the government builds airstrips around the Aboriginal communities on the islands, bringing the war to their backyards, resulting in evacuations which introduces the continent to an otherwise isolated islander culture.

We are taken to the sugar cane fields just outside of Cairns, as the couple relocates with promises of a better life. The parents soon die under the harsh conditions of life and work there, and the children grow and move to Canberra in hopes of a better future and life. This brings us to the main character of the book, which starts off in Canberra and then moves to Sydney for her promise of something better.

The insight and perspective of life for Aboriginal people in Australia as generations of this family moves throughout the country to try to find a place is captivating. We see racism and tension in her workplace, her personal life, and in the lecture halls as the main character comes to terms with what it means to be Aboriginal in Australia even in modern times. It speaks also to the prejudice and intolerance she faces as a young woman waitressing her way through law school, trying to educate those around her.

The author herself is an Aboriginal lawyer from the communities she sets her novel in and takes her readers through a journey she knows well. It is reminiscent of Esmeralda Santiago's bestseller, When I Was Puerto Rican. The contrast of the periods captured by the author is unique as it symbolizes a beauty in the innocence of love and yet the reality of a culture and people struggling to survive and therefore, leaving their islands in search of work and far off dreams.

America's Trail of Tears

A story of love and betrayal

By Dean W. Arnold

Chattanooga Historical Society

Most Native people know the story of how the Cherokee were the ones who most emulated the white man. And then when they were successful at it they were dispossessed of their lands and an estimated 14,000 were forcibly removed. It is estimated that 2,000 died of disease while waiting in camps to be removed from their territory. Another 4,600 are estimated to have died on the Trail of Tears.

The book addresses this by recounting "One member of the Georgia Guard who later served in the Confederate Army described the horror of the removal: 'I fought through the Civil War and have seen men shot to pieces and slaughtered by the thousands but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest thing I ever saw.'"

This book shows the Cherokee developing their own court system and written language long before the removal. The Cherokee developed a constitution that was ahead of its time. They were a prosperous, hardworking people who were seen as getting above themselves.

Indians were meant to be civilized but never really attain that goal. When intermarriages started happening it was used as an excuse to start looking at attaining all the Cherokee lands in what is now Georgia. After all it was being wasted on the Indians.

This is an old story, but one that has never been told so well. It is more than a look into the state and federal government and the role they played. It is a look into the internal politics and life of the Cherokee nation in a humanistic and enjoyable manner. Thoroughly recommended.

VILLE DE CHIBOUGAMAU

Greetings from Mayor Donald Bubar and the Town Council

Our Congratulations and Best Wishes to your New Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff.

Félicitations au nouveau grand chef Matthew Mukash

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Commission de la construction du Québec

FIERS DE BÂTIR ENSEMBLE

LES MINES
INMET
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division

Félicitations à M. Matthew Mukash *pour sa victoire comme Grand Chef de la Nation Crie ainsi qu'à M. Ashley Iserhoff nouvellement élu comme Adjoint au Grand Chef de la Nation Crie.*

Congratulations to Mr. Matthew Mukash *for his victory as Grand Chief of the Cree Nation and also to Mr. Ashley Iserhoff newly elected Deputy Grand Chief of the Cree Nation.*

Note: Don't forget...Inmet encourages the hiring of Crees and thanks all applicants for their interest

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The Cree nation of
OUJE BOUGOUMOU

...wishes the best of luck to the new leaders of Eeyou Istchee, **Grand Chief *Matthew Mukash*** and **Deputy Grand Chief *Ashley Iserhoff.***

Prosperity and strength to the Cree nation.

From the Chief, Council and all members of Ouje-Bougoumou.

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COMMISSION SCOLAIRE HARRICANA

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For more information, consult our Web Site at: http://cfh.csharricana.qc.ca or call (819) 732-3223.

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For professional services adapted to your needs !

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Les formations dispensées en 2003-2004

- Mécanique de véhicules légers (DEP) à Waskaganish
- Mécanique automobile (DEP) à Wemindji

Les formations actuellement offertes en 2004-2005

- Mécanique industrielle de construction et d'entretien (DEP) à Chibougamau
- Mécanique automobile (DEP) à Chibougamau

The ***Commission scolaire de la Baie-James***, is proud to be the ***Cree School Board's*** partner and participate in the education and training for the First Nations living in Northern Quebec.

The training offered in 2003-2004

- Light vehicles mechanics (DEP) in Waskaganish
- Automobile mechanics (DEP) in Wemindji

The trainings actually offered in 2004-2005

- Industrial construction and maintenance mechanics (DEP) in Chibougamau
- Automobile mechanics (DEP) in Chibougamau

Contactez-nous... Contact us...

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The Bear Facts

by Xavier Kataquapit

There has been a lot of news about problem bears lately in Northern Ontario. Specifically, these are problems with black bears or "Muskwa", as they are known in the Cree language. People I talk to say that many bears are hungry this time of year as they are preparing to bed down and hibernate for the coming winter. As well, this has been a poor year for berries and the bears are going hungry. Instead of foraging for berries, as they always have, bears are resorting to visiting our homes and neighborhoods in search of something to eat.

I have seen black bears only a few times. The Muskwa does not seem large on its four legs but it is a huge creature when standing upright. It can easily overpower the strongest man and outrun and out climb the best athletes. Even with all these strengths, a black bear is not known as a hunter of smaller or weaker animals. Actually it is mostly a vegetarian that feeds on insects, wild berries and some plants. However, bears also eat small rodents and dead animals. The bear's taste for rotting food is the reason why they raid garbage and dumpsites in search of an easy meal.

There has never really been a problem with bears on the James Bay coast. One reason for this is that the mushkeg and tundra does not provide a good place for bear habitat. Black bears enjoy roaming for food in large areas but the mushkeg of the James Bay coast is impossible to travel over. The mushkeg bog is not a solid surface for any walking animal. The hordes of flies and mosquitoes also make life miserable for any creature out on the land.

I remember about four or five visits by black bears to our local dumpsite in Attawapiskat. It was an unusual event when a bear came to visit our community. At first there was cause for concern, as every hunter knows how powerful and deadly a bear can be, even though this animal can look cute and cuddly. When the bears came to town we all avoided the dump for a long time but finally curiosity got the best of us and these animals became a bit of a spectacle. I remember taking the family truck with my brothers and dad to drive out to the dump to catch a glimpse of Muskwa. However, our bear visits were short and sweet as the trappers and hunters in the community at some point got fed up and simply killed Muskwa. Sometimes things in remote First Nations are pretty basic. If there is a large and potentially dangerous animal roaming about then it is removed.

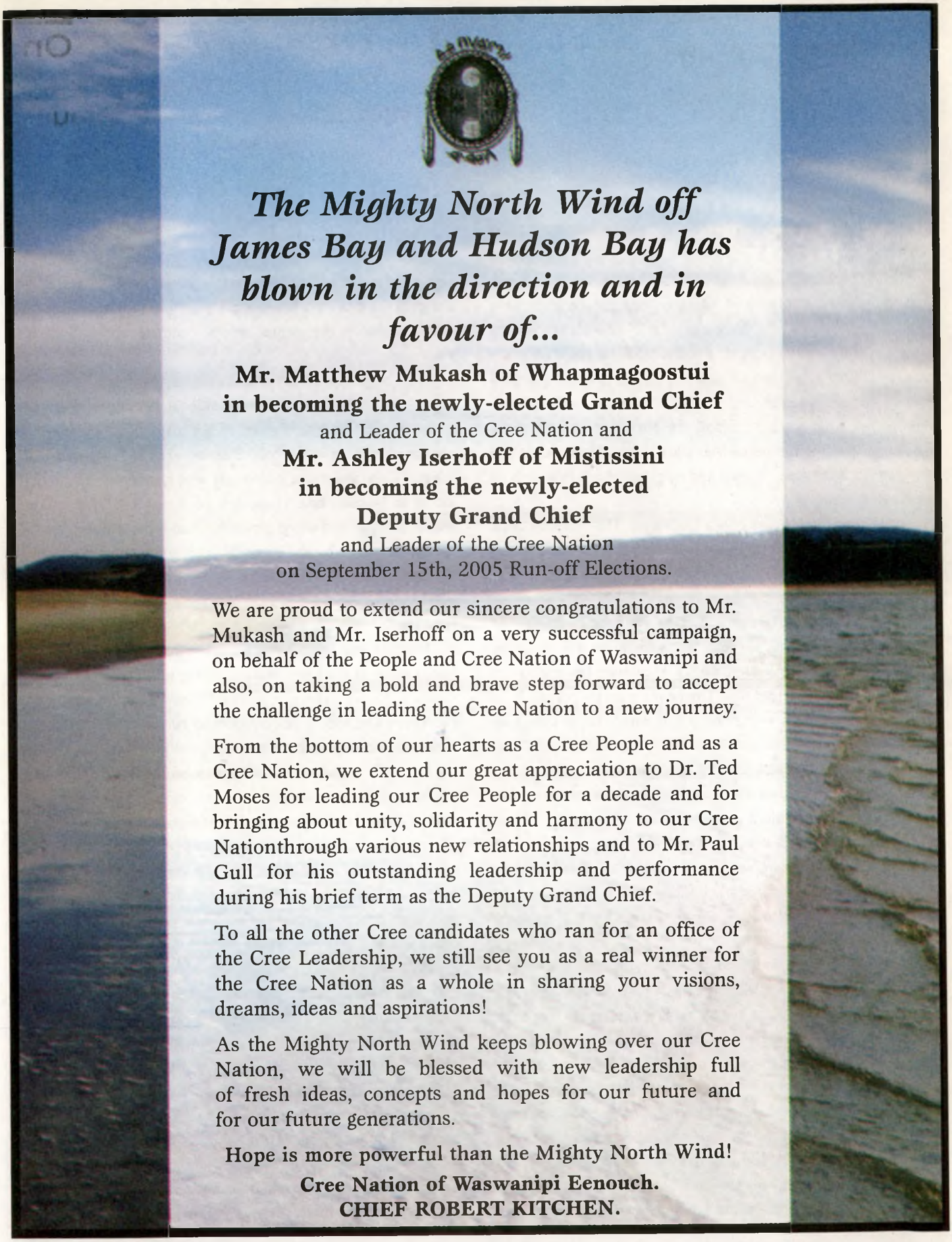
Our biggest problem with bears came when we ventured out onto James Bay to our traditional hunting and trapping grounds. Out on the shores of the bay there is always the chance of running into a Polar Bear or "Wabusk" in the Cree language. They are more numerous and common further north closer to Hudson Bay. These are intelligent and bold creatures that are larger and more powerful than a black bear. They are usually attracted by the scent of fresh animal or fish kills made by hunters on the land. Polar bears travel fast and whenever one is spotted in the distance, everyone knows it is only a matter of time before the bear will arrive at camp.

Most of my bear sightings were further south from my home community. I first started seeing black bears in numbers when I began driving on the highways and roadways of Northern Ontario. It is common to run into bears along the roadside and where there is a dumpsite nearby.

I actually came across a bear once south of Timmins on Highway 144 near Gogama. It was a lonely stretch of highway and far away from any communities or camping areas. I was on my motorcycle. A bear walked out in front of me on the asphalt at the high point of a hill and sat right there in the middle of the highway. He seemed confused and traffic had to slow to a stop and then proceed around him. I was really careful, as I was more vulnerable on my motorcycle.

I was happy to put the miles between the big black Muskwa and me. When I pulled over for gas at the service station in Gogama, I mentioned the bear to the gas attendant. He laughed and then told me that this was no dumb bear. In fact, the animal had figured out that if he sat right in the middle of the road people would stop their vehicles and more often than not toss out some food or treat. That Muskwa had figured out a new angle, albeit a slightly dangerous one.

All in all I am not terrified of Muskwa but I do respect this animal's strength, speed and unpredictability. We all need to give them a lot of room.



The Mighty North Wind off James Bay and Hudson Bay has blown in the direction and in favour of...

Mr. Matthew Mukash of Whapmagoostui
in becoming the newly-elected Grand Chief
and Leader of the Cree Nation and
Mr. Ashley Iserhoff of Mistissini
in becoming the newly-elected
Deputy Grand Chief
and Leader of the Cree Nation
on September 15th, 2005 Run-off Elections.

We are proud to extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Mukash and Mr. Iserhoff on a very successful campaign, on behalf of the People and Cree Nation of Waswanipi and also, on taking a bold and brave step forward to accept the challenge in leading the Cree Nation to a new journey.

From the bottom of our hearts as a Cree People and as a Cree Nation, we extend our great appreciation to Dr. Ted Moses for leading our Cree People for a decade and for bringing about unity, solidarity and harmony to our Cree Nationthrough various new relationships and to Mr. Paul Gull for his outstanding leadership and performance during his brief term as the Deputy Grand Chief.

To all the other Cree candidates who ran for an office of the Cree Leadership, we still see you as a real winner for the Cree Nation as a whole in sharing your visions, dreams, ideas and aspirations!

As the Mighty North Wind keeps blowing over our Cree Nation, we will be blessed with new leadership full of fresh ideas, concepts and hopes for our future and for our future generations.

Hope is more powerful than the Mighty North Wind!

Cree Nation of Waswanipi Eenouch.
CHIEF ROBERT KITCHEN.

Chief and Council and members
of the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

Congratulations

To our new Grand Chief Mr. Matthew Mukash and to our new Deputy Grand Chief Mr. Ashley Iserhoff, on your successful elections and wish you the very best for the next four years!

Congratulations

to Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and

Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff.

From the Cree nation of Wemindji.

Specific Agreement On Tourism

for the Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee

Do you have a business or activity that contributes to the tourism industry of Eeyou Istchee?

If so, you may be able to benefit from the Specific Agreement on Tourism.

The objective of this agreement is to increase the tourism activity and to support job creation within the tourism sector in Eeyou Istchee.

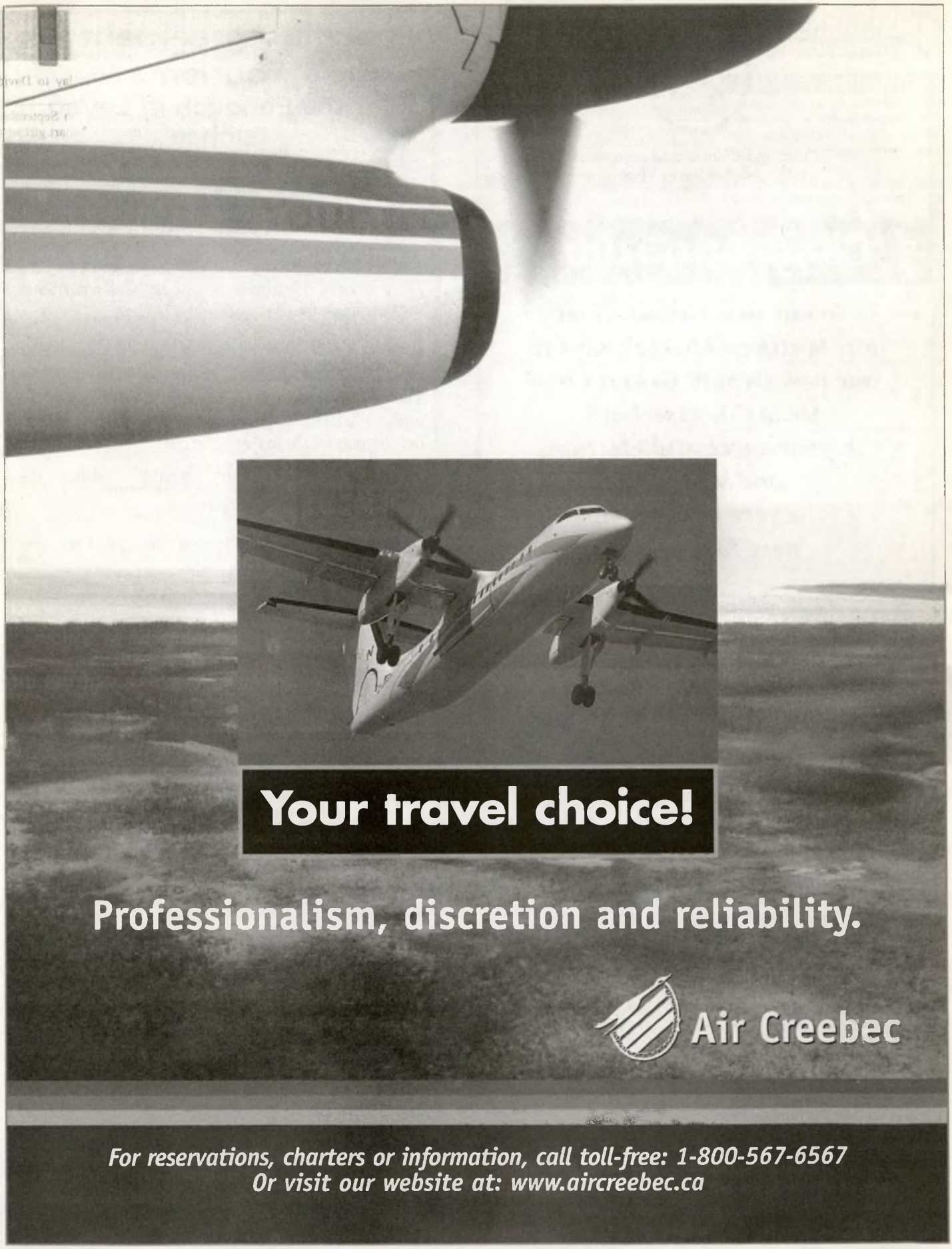
This agreement supports projects within the following sectors:

- Promotion
- Development of Tourist Potential
- Lodging
- Attractions
- Activities & Equipment
- Events
- Camping
- Outfitting

For further information, regarding the application and approval process, please contact:

Rodney W. Hester
Program Officer - Cree Regional Authority
c/o Secretariat to the Cree Nation / Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance
624, 3rd Avenue
Val-d'Or, Quebec J9P 1S5
Phone: (819) 824-9888
Fax: (819) 824-9588
hester.rodney@cablevision.qc.ca

"Thanking you in advance for your application, and for demonstrating your willingness to increase the tourist activity within Eeyou Istchee."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CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS – 100

Congratulations to our sister Chantal Tetreault and our brother-in-law Mark Daigle on the birth of their baby boy Liam Pierre Joseph Alphonse Daigle. Our adorable nephew was born in Châteauguay on September 6th, 2005 at 2:22pm. Liam is anxiously waiting to meet all his aunts, uncles and cousins from the north. Love from your sisters Stephanie, Nora and gookum Helen.

I would like to say congratulations to my brother and his girlfriend on the birth of their baby girl Hayleigh Veronica Paige born on Aug.16.2005 at 7;02 pm in Timmins, Ont. I'm proud to be an aunt for the first time...take good care of her! Love your big sis Jolene and your nieces Daisyann and Trisha (wask)

Congratulations to Josephine Masty And William Petagumskum on the birth of their baby girl Destiny Miranda Defiliah Masty on Sept 6, 2005. Take good care of your little one, hugs and kisses. From granny Patty. Love: Patricia, Gordon & Family

We would like to Congratulate our friend Trishina Katapatuk and her boyfriend Joel Stephen on the Birth of their Baby Girl "Joellanna Precious Joy" born on September 14, 2005 at: 6:57am, at 7 pounds and 16ozs...Hey Trishina take Good Care of your Lil Princess...Aiight??...LoL With Love in Friendship: Serena, Jeanelle, Yvette, Miranda, Kristen, Selina, Melina and Lisa (wask)

BIRTHDAYS – 101

We would like to say a happy birthday to our Uncle Dale Bobbish on September 16, 2005 and to our Aunt Doreen Bobbish on September 17, 2005. Happy birthday and many more to come. We love you from: John, Julian and Heather (Mistissini).

Happy birthday to my sister Karen Masty on September 13, to Vincent Georgekish in Wemindji on September 26 and to Briana Masty Boudrias on September 27. From Nellie.

We would like to wish our son Craydon Hester a Happy 3rd Birthday on September 29, 2005. Happy Birthday lil' man and many more to come. Hope you have fun on your special day. We so thankful to have a son like you. Boy you are growing so fast Craydon. We love you so much. With all our love: Mommy & Daddy (Paulette & Corey) xoxoxox

We would like to wish our grandpa Charlie.O. a happy birthday on September 29,2005. We love you, even though we tease you sometimes, have a wonderful day! Lots of love; jabber, maadoo and lawdee, and our mom and dad. (Wasw.)

We would like to wish our sweet daughter Melody Trapper a happy 3rd birthday on Sept 26,2005. We love you so so much and may your day be filled with lots of love and full of surprises. With love always and forever; mommy, daddy, big sister Kelly, and big bro Dale. Xoxoxo

This special birthday wish is going out to my sissy who is sassy on September 27, 2005.

Happy birthday to you my sister, I'm gratetful to have you as a sister who is kind generous and SASSY, lol. Have a wonderful day! Love; your second sissy????? (Waswanipi).

Happy birthday to all my family members of september, Michael Cooper; Sept 1,Cynthia Cooper; Sept 1, Joyce Sag; Sept 3, Zach Moore; Sept 5, Allen Cooper; Sept10, Angel C.Dixon; Sept16, Jewel Moar; Sept 23, Terry o; Sept18, Patrick Cooper; Sept 27, Minnie Wap; Sept 29, Charlie o; Sept 29. Have a happy birthday and many more to come, fr; Julie and Peter and children.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday! To our teacher Marie-Therese Songue on September 13, 2005 in Chisasibi. From your students of Computing Support Program 2005-2006! P.S. Happy Birthday to David on September 17!

Happy "14th" birthday on September 16 to a most beautiful, smart girl who I love and admire the most, my great-neice Victoria M. S. Wasayabinokow Rednose. Always be true to yourself and others. Stay in school, listen and learn. Whatever you do, always think of your great-grandmother first and us who love you the most. Remember that you're only 14 (not 18 yet), you still have alot of growing up to do, and I will always be here to listen to you any day and any time (well, not at 3 in the morning!!!) Come visit me in Ottawa, or call, or email me sometimes, your gookum Elizabeth.

We would like to wish a happy Birthday to our Daddy Kevin Hester on sept 19/05. We want you to know that we love very much. Happy Birthday and many more to come. With love from; your daugthers Kaylin and Katelin Georgekish (wask)

Happy 6th Birthday to my nephew Dakota Masty on sept 6,05 many more years to come and I love you so much. From: Auntie Patricia Snowboy

We would like to say a happy Birthday to our Auntie Sherry Ann Georgekish from Wask. Happy Birthday on September 21/05. From; your Nieces kaylin and katelin Georgekish (wask)

The Nation

Cover date on magazine	Volume & Issue No.	Deadline to receive ad material
2005		
October 14	12-24	September 30
October 28	12-25	October 14
November 11	12-26	October 28
November 25	13-01	November 11
December 9	13-02	November 25
December 23	13-03	December 9
January 6	13-04	December 23
January 20	13-05	January 6
February 3	13-06	January 20

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Don't be left behind; do as your competitors, invest in your business with an ad in the Nation.

For more information, please call 514-272-3077

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to my boyfriend Kevin Hester on the 19th of september.words couldn't express how much you mean to me. I Love you with all my heart. From; Beverly Georgekish in wask.

This one goes out to my little sister Rose George. Happy 9th birthday on the 30th, little sis. Have a good one. Have as much fun as you did last year. I will always remember that one. Luv ya, from Louise

I would like to wish my Uncle/Grandpa Dale Jonah a happy belated birthday who celebrated on September 24 ... Even thou i don't know how old you are gonna be, but i hope you enjoy you're birthday and many more to come. Love always, your niece Doreen and your grandaughter Bianca Jonah.

WEDDINGS – 102

I want to congratulate my friend/cousin Alice and her husband Joe Loon on there wedding on September 09,2005 in Chisasibi. Congratulations! Hey Joe Take good care of my friend (ur wife) ah...LoL.Now is Mr. and Mrs Joe Loon Eeyah! Love Always: Friend/cousin in Chisasibi. A.M.: p

ANNIVERSARIES – 103

I would like to wish my husband Charlie J. Loon a Happy 13th anniversary on September 18th.I love you Charlie, thanks for being a wonderful companion and especially my best friend for the past 13 years! Love, your wife, Maggie.

On October 6th, 2001 was the day I married my husband Wasesguin Gunner. HAPPY 4th ANNIVERSARY and many more to come. I wanted to let you know that I LOVE YOU dearly. Thank you for everything that you have given me. Love Always, your wife Carole K.Gunner

We would like to wish Willie and Christina Ottereyes a happy 1st anniversary on sept 25,2005. May God continue to guide the love you have for each other, the life you have with one another and lead you both in good times and bad times. Happy anniversary and many more to come. Love and Prayers; Peter and Julie Trapper and children (Waswanipi).

Happy 28th Anniversary to Nancy and Charlie Ottereyes on Sept 16,2005. May the love you have for each other continue to grow in the hands of our Father and guide you through good times and the bad times. With love; Peter, Julie and children.

Happy 26th Wedding Anniversary to our Grandparents on September 26, 2005, Grandpa Isaac & Googoo Sarah from Wask. May your day be as special as you are to us. And praying for you that you will have many more

Public Notice

Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs

NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT
(R.S.Q., c. C-61.01)

Temporary protection status assigned as a proposed biodiversity reserve

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with section 29 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C 61.01):

(1) that the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks by Minister's Order dated July 27, 2005 has assigned temporary protection status as a proposed biodiversity reserve to the three land areas whose names and locations appear in the Schedule, for a period of four years beginning on the date of publication of the notice in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*;

(2) that the permanent protection status considered for the land areas is that of biodiversity reserve, as an extension of the status already assigned, the granting of such permanent status being governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act;

(3) that a copy of the plan of the proposed biodiversity reserves may be obtained on payment of a fee from Léopold Gaudreau, Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 4e étage, boîte 21, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7; telephone (418) 521-3907, extension 4783; fax (418) 646-6169; or e-mail at leopold.gaudreau@mddep.gouv.qc.ca.

Madeleine Paulin
Deputy Minister

SCHEDULE

Proposed Niquet stream biodiversity reserve
Location: The proposed Niquet stream biodiversity reserve is located in the Nord-du-Québec administrative region, between 50°04' and 50°14' north latitude and 78°53' and 79°10' west longitude.

Proposed Saint-Cyr lake biodiversity reserve
Location: The proposed Saint-Cyr lake biodiversity reserve is located in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue administrative region, between 48°37' and 48°52' north latitude and 75°36' and 75°49' west longitude.

Proposed Wetetnagami lake biodiversity reserve
Location: The proposed Wetetnagami lake biodiversity reserve is located in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue administrative region, between 48°35' and 49°00' north latitude and 76°11' and 76°23' west longitude.

Québec

Public Notice

Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs

NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT
(R.S.Q., c. C-61.01)

Amendment to the land plan and conservation plan of three proposed biodiversity reserves

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 29 and 31 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C 61.01):

(1) that the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks with the Government's approval has amended the land plan and conservation plan for the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve, the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve and the proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve to expand their boundaries, pursuant to Order in Council 637-2005 dated 23 June 2005, the amended plans taking effect on the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* as a Schedule to that Order;

(2) that, as provided in section 31 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the amendments to the plans do not affect the period of time for which the land was set aside, that period being 4 years beginning on 14 July 2004 for the Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve, and beginning on 7 May 2003 for the other two biodiversity reserves, and the amendments do not affect the permanent protection status considered for the reserve as stated in the preceding notice published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*;

(3) that a copy of the amended land plan and conservation plan of the proposed biodiversity reserves may be obtained on payment of a fee from Léopold Gaudreau, Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 4e étage, boîte 21, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7; telephone (418) 521-3907, extension 4783; fax (418) 646-6169; or e-mail at leopold.gaudreau@mddep.gouv.qc.ca.

Madeleine Paulin
Deputy Minister

Québec

CLASSIFIEDS

Annivesaries together..We love you both very much...xoxo... Love always your Grand-Daughters Anisha & Nichelle Jacob (Wask.)

For my Parent's, Isaac and Sarah Jacob. You both are so very wonderful, sweetest dear loving parents and I'm Happiest to say this on the occasion of your 26 years in marriage (Sept. 26, 2005.) There is no love that is brighter or anything as warm as the love you both are sharing together, wishing you both many more Anniversaries together...Love you Both very much and Thank you for all the things you have done for me and my Family. We appreciate you both foreverxoxo. With love your Daughter, Francine Jacob (Wask.)

Wish my hubby a Happy 1th Annivarsary on the 9th of October 2005.There are no words to explaine how i feel about you. It's you what keeps my living in this world and with our kids. Sure sometimes we have our ups and downs, but that is not going to stop me from loving you hunnie. You are the joy in my life, the reason I live in the hardest times in my life, You keep in on my feet just when I want to give up, No one can't take this place in my heart I have for you. Cause I just love you so much. You are my eveything. LUB U AGAIN & AGAIN. Your wife Jessicah Moore

This is going out to two special people I don't often see anymore. I miss them and I want them to know I'm thinking about them, and I wanna wish them a happy 22nd Anniversary on October 8,2005. Minnie and Gordon Wapachee, in Nemaska. I want to thank you for being there for me and the nickname you've given me, and the charlie horses you gave me (lol) and for teaching me the bush life. (Lol) I'll always cherish the funny bush memories we had. It was fun living with you and your family. With love; Winhiigunn (wasw)

Happy 1st anniversary to Ira and Jessicah Gunner on October 9,2005. A year has gone by so fast but the love you both have for each other will become stronger and stronger each day of your lives. Keep up with the love, lol. Wishing you both the best in the years to come. Happy Anniversary! Love n prayers; Peter, Julie, and children. (Wasw.)

PERSONAL – 300

I met this guy in Val d'Or, his name is Alex, I don't remember his last name, I hope you remember me, cause I remember you, I need to talk to you, I need to see you, we need to talk, it's important, I think you're from chisasibi, you have greenish blue eyes, light skin, tall, you had a white sweater when we met, we met at the bar on Saturday morning and on Saturday night I saw you at Continental, you were sitting on a truck, drinking a beer and later on that night I saw you at Rock Inn, we talked for a while and I lost sight of you, that was the last time I saw you, you were talking to these people from Mistissini...I wish we could meet again, I'm hoping to meet you in Val d'Or this December. If I don't see you, I guess I'll never see you again...from this girl you met from waswanipi...*h*

To My Dear Friend Alice - Alice i hope you enjoy your day today, cause this day means that you will spend the rest of your life to someone you love and loves you. Congatulations! Cousin/friend Alice Rosanna and your husband Joe-Max Loon, you know that your Father is watching over us from heaven, friends and family to this special day and his adorable Grandchildren Tyson And Alyssa, like you said, he was ready for you two, to get married from the first day that he knew that he was going to be a Grandfather, I remembered him, he was like my father his life, attitude, funny...very funny. I still remember your father, just by listening to his music. My father Eric always sings downstairs at our house by your dad\'s songs on a karaoke, I like to listen to him cause it kinda remind\'s me of your dad like when he used to sing downstairs at your home.Well that's it for now Congatulations!

Cousin/sister/friend. In Loving Memory of your father, Grandfather and friend William Jeffrey Matthew ...Rest In Peace! Love Always, from your Cousin/friend Alexandra M.

Hello Whapmagoostui/Kuujjuaraapik. I am still down here in good ol' Nova Scotia. I would love to hear from anybody who might want to email me. My email address is (greg_hatt@hotmail.com). I'll be looking forward to hearing from you all. Greg

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS – 400

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

ONE MORE RIVER IS COMING TO YOUR HOME TOWN ON DVD!

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- Sam's Video and Coffee Shop (Wemindji)
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- Nemaska General Store
- Northern Stores in: Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, Wemindji

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the last line...

by Neil Diamond

Smears, fears and tears

If you believe the words of doom and gloom that were bandied about days before the election for Grand Chief, the Cree Nation will be in ruins and rubble by this time next year.

One of the items on former – yes, that's right, former – Grand Chief Ted Moses' website warns that the guaranteed $70 million owed to the Crees will stop pouring into our bank accounts. Another states that the Cree Nation will not be viewed as credible people to negotiate with. Yet another says there would be a loss of forestry protection, a loss in jobs, loss of funding for expanded health services, loss of game wardens. The most frightening for us law-abiding Crees is that we will lose our peace keepers. In other words, the Cree Nation, if it voted for Matthew Mukash, would plunge into a state of total anarchy.

Imagine the headlines in future issues of *the Nation*; CREE BANK ACCOUNTS EMPTY!; ENTIRE WORLD REFUSES TO DEAL WITH CREE; EEYOU ISTCHEE'S FORESTS GONE FOREVER; PANHANDLING EPIDEMIC!; DIALYSIS MACHINES REPOSSESSED; BANDS OF POACHERS RUNNING RAMPANT!; CRIME RATE SKYROCKETS!; MUKASH IN HIDING AS MOSES REBELS TAKE NEMASKA!

It looks like the only people who are going to be having any fun in our future are poachers, criminals and headline writers.

Moses' website wasn't the only source of such dire warnings. A Mukash hater from Whapmagoostui phoned and apparently warned the Mocreebec people that his hometown candidate was a vile pagan sorcerer, or words to that effect. Luckily for Matthew Mukash, Mocreebec voters recognize and resist demagoguery. Or it could be that they just prefer to have vile pagan sorcerers as their chiefs, I don't know, I'm as baffled as you are.

A very similar accusation was reported to have been broadcast over Mistissini's airwaves just before the run-off election by someone who shall, for now, remain nameless. Fortunately, for the Mistissini media's sterling reputation, the hapless and lowly radio employee who authorized such slander to air was severely admonished. On the air or not I do not yet know.

I really didn't foresee it, but my colleagues and I were dragged into the filth when the Grand Council's website used a critique of Rezolution Pictures' award-winning documentary, One More River, to stage a pre-emptive strike against Matthew Mukash weeks before the election. The website's authors practically accused me of being just being another drunken Cree party guy (guilty!), and characterized Mukash as some Svengali-like character pulling the strings and manipulating the filmmakers for his own gains.

Fear mongerers and demagogues, whether they win or lose an election, do make a huge impression on voters, judging by the entries in the www's tedmoses.com guestbook link. Many of the site's entries contain petitions to God to spare the Cree Nation from certain apocalypse now that Matthew Mukash has been elected. Many expressed true fear that Mukash will only bring misery, rending of garments and gnashing of teeth to our Nation. Perhaps those reactions came to pass because of the heat of the moment and people will soon come to their senses and realize that it was only politics.

My only prediction in this election that even came close to being true was that it was going to turn dirty. But even I was surprised to see how low some Cree politicians have sunk. I didn't expect Cree politics to actually soil itself. So I guess I was only half right.

I've been following Cree politics with pointed interest now for about 20 years and tracked its lumbering and steady metamorphosis. I remember elections past when a candidate's campaign consisted of posting their resumes, with a one-page platform tacked on, at the local Northern Store. Then, maybe, they might go on-air for a chat at their local radio station.

In those long-gone days they might as well have campaigned for their opponents. That's how docile the candidates were. It didn't matter who won then. We still stood united, the stakes were low and no one had anything to lose save a high-paying job and maybe a smidgen of pride.

I don't know when the exact turning point was, but I remember listening to a candidates' debate on a CBC North broadcast several elections back. Back then, I believe the field was comprised of no more than six candidates. Mistissini candidate Kenny Loon had the floor when all of a sudden Ted Moses interrupted him. I don't remember what Moses said, but I do recall Loon's response. I find it difficult to translate his reaction into English so I'll attempt writing it out in Cree phonetically. Bear with me. "Boyh! Shash Jimayayhjen!"

I remember finding Kenny Loon's reply so funny, and so Cree, that I burst out laughing. I found the incident unusual enough that I related the story to several of my bored and apathetic friends. Perhaps that was when the change began, I don't know. But I bet those disinterested friends of mine were following this election and actually went out to vote.

A prediction regarding future Cree elections: Desperate, yet slightly more sophisticated and subtle fear mongering and actual kissing (yuck!) for photo ops of bawling Cree babies. Yuck!

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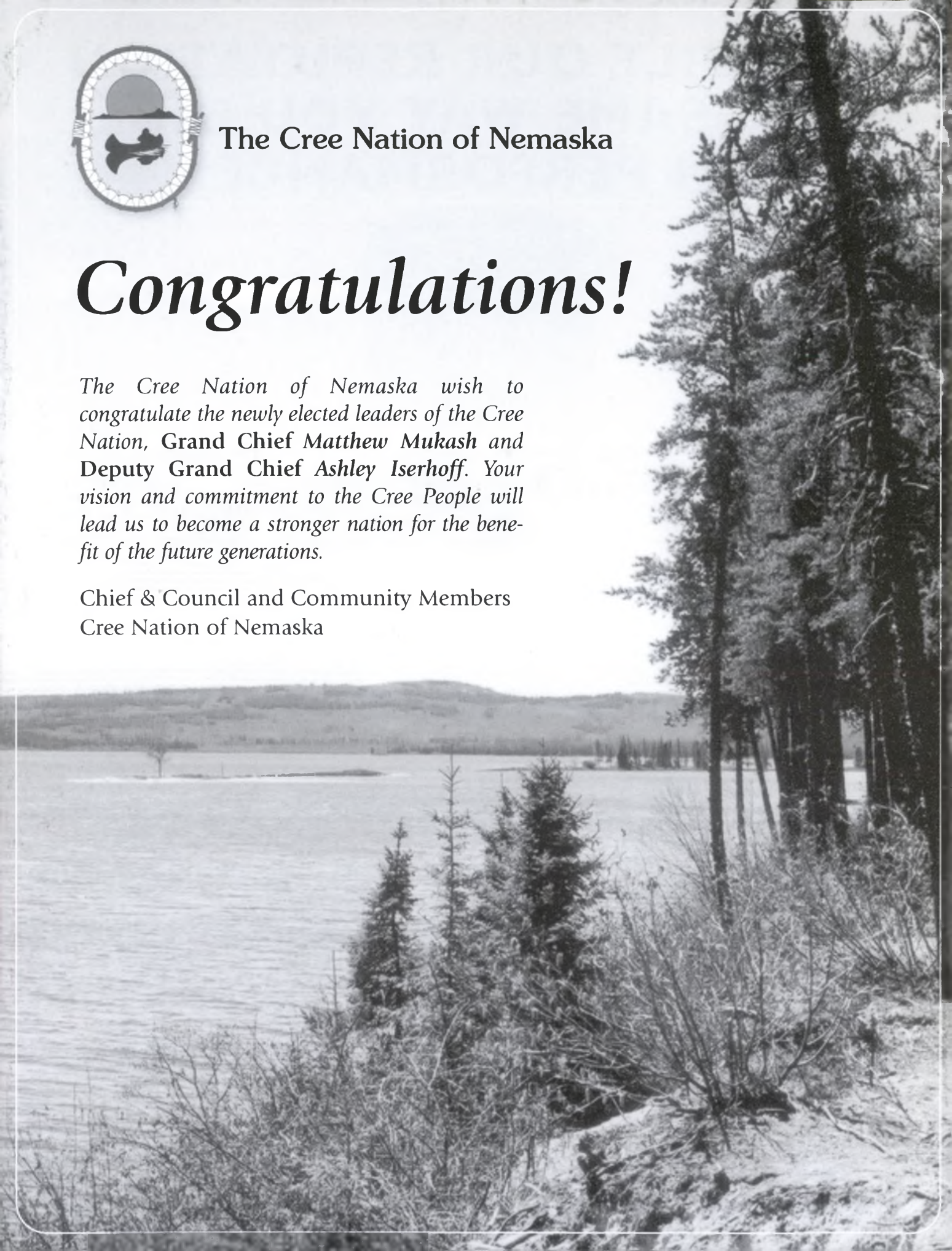

The Cree Nation of Nemaska

Congratulations!

The Cree Nation of Nemaska wish to congratulate the newly elected leaders of the Cree Nation, **Grand Chief** ***Matthew Mukash*** *and* **Deputy Grand Chief** ***Ashley Iserhoff****. Your vision and commitment to the Cree People will lead us to become a stronger nation for the benefit of the future generations.*

Chief & Council and Community Members
Cree Nation of Nemaska